THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 11th December 1923.

The House met at 11 o'clock, the President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.) in the chair.

I

NEW MEMBER.

The following Member was sworn in :—

Sriman BISVANATH DAS Mahasayo (Ganjām).

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

ARMS ACT.

Licences issued under the Arms Act in the Coimbatore district.

15 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of licences issued in the Coimbatore district under the Arms Act and the number of licences issued for the possession of revolvers in the first four months of the year 1922 and in the corresponding period of the year 1923 ; whether there has been a large reduction and, if so, whether there are any special reasons for the same ;

(*b*) whether the reduction has been made by the order of the District Magistrate himself or at the suggestion of the Government ;

(*c*) whether there are any rules framed by the Government in the matter, or whether it is left entirely to the discretion of the District Magistrate ;

(*d*) whether the Government have any intention of interfering in the matter, especially in view of the fact that the Coimbatore district contains a large area as reserved forest having wild beasts, etc. ; and

(*e*) whether the Government have any objection to form a small committee to advise the District Magistrate on the matter of issuing licences ?